

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, and 78-91 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 78, and 85.

The Examiner objected to claim 10 as lacking the proper antecedent basis for a "client computer." Applicant has amended claim 10 to address the Examiner's concern and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10, 78-79, 82-83, 85-86, and 89-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Ram (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,258); claims 84 and 91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ram in view of Dodrill (2005/0193332); and claims 80-81 and 87-88 over Ram in view of Cohen (6,859,776). In response to applicant's previous arguments, the Examiner indicated that the claims do not recite "the technology allows various vendors to provide pluggable communications services." Office Action, September 22, 2005, p. 6. Applicant believes that the term "terminal object" in the claims provides this feature inherently as described throughout the specification, however, applicant has amended the claims to recite this aspect of a terminal object explicitly and respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn. In response to a proposal to amend the claims in this way, the Examiner indicated that this amendment should render the Ram rejection moot.

Applicant's technology provides a common application programming interface (API) for controlling the media stream transmitted during a call. Applicant's technology allows various vendors to provide pluggable communication services by developing terminal objects. A telephony application can be written to take advantage of any terminal object registered on a system, and terminal objects allow easy expandability of the application to handle new technologies. For example, a terminal object written by one vendor that examines audio received over a call for dual-tone-multi-frequency tones (DTMF, also known as touch tones) can be an integral component of an interactive voice response system provided by another vendor that allows a caller to select menu choices by pressing a number on a phone's keypad. The same interactive voice response system may later be

upgraded to allow a caller to speak the number of their menu selection rather than pressing it on the keypad simply by registering a terminal object capable of speech recognition. As another example, a voicemail system could be developed utilizing a terminal object capable of saving an audio stream to a file.

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly point out the plugability of terminal objects and their relationship to applications that use them. Claim 1 recites, "selecting a terminal object from among a group of registered terminal objects adhering to a uniform interface, each providing specific functionality to process the media stream, wherein a terminal object allows various vendors to provide pluggable communications services." Claims 78 and 85 recite a similar step. Ram describes a proprietary system for providing various call services such as voicemail and automated receipt of faxes, that is not extensible. Ram does not teach or suggest adding new functionality by allowing vendors to provide objects providing various call services that adhere to a common interface. Therefore, Ram does not anticipate applicant's technology. Further, neither Dodrill nor Cohen teach or suggest pluggable terminal objects that allow for extensible communications services. Therefore, no combination of the cited references contains all of the elements of applicant's claims. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

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Respectfully submitted,

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